

The Sin of Envy

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If there is ever a sin that led to ruin of men and angels it has been the sin of envy. And it is a sin that is common to all to a degree.

Envy is described as a desire to have a quality, possession, or other desirable attribute belonging to (someone else).

The Bible has a lot to say about envy.

James states about Envy

James 3:14-16

But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

Notice: That Envy is

1) Bitter

(Leaves a awful taste in your mouth. People who are envious, sees themselves many times as a victim to Providence, speak wrong about others & even God)

The Book of Proverbs states envy rottenness to your bone. In that it effects your mental state. And effecting you mentally, it would effect your whole self & health.

Proverbs 14:30

A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones.

2) Self-seeking

(In that it doesn't feel happy for other people being blessed but wants it for self. If there ever was a person who is a narcissist it is someone who is envious. They rather see a other person with nothing , than seeing them better than themselves)

3) Sensual

(It feeds the carnality of men , you in the flesh when you are envious of others . It is mentioned in the list of the manifestation of the flesh.)

Galatians 5:19-21

Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

4) Demonic

In that it was by this means that Satan fell in being envious towards God.

Isaiah 14:12-15

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit.

5) Confusion

It confuses your purpose in life, it confuses what God has for you with someone else's. Never mind focusing on being a better me , I want to be them. I want what they have. I want what they are.

It was because of Envy that Eve fell into transgression because she was envious of God and wanted to know as God knows .

Genesis 3:5-6

For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Envy brings destruction in the family and relationships Cain killed Abel out of envy because God accepted Abel sacrifice but did not accepted Cain.

Genesis 4:3-8

And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell. So the Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen?"

If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it." Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him.

Envy was the cause of the fall of the Angels, they envy men because their ability to marry & have a family so they fell in lust with the women below and begot giants.

Genesis 6:1-2,4

Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.

There were giants on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of men and they bore children to them. Those were the mighty men who were of old, men of renown.

Envy was the cause Joseph was sold by his brothers because he Father loved him more than them.

Genesis 37:3-4

Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his children, because he was the son of his old age. Also he made him a tunic of many colors. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

Acts 7:9

“And the patriarchs, becoming envious, sold Joseph into Egypt. But God was with him

Envy was what led King Saul to persecuting David.

1 Samuel 18:6-11

Now it had happened as they were coming home, when David was returning from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women had come out of all the cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet King Saul, with tambourines, with joy, and with musical instruments. So the women sang as they danced, and said: "Saul has slain his thousands, And David his ten thousands." Then Saul was very angry, and the saying displeased him; and he said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed only thousands. Now what more can he have but the kingdom?" So Saul eyed David from that day forward. And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his hand, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's hand. And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice.

And Envy is what led David to be discontent with God kill Uriah because he wanted his wife.

2 Samuel 12:7-10

Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave you your master’s house and your master’s wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more! Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. Now therefore, the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised Me, and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.’

It was because of envy that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ was handed over to be crucified.

Matthew 27:18

For he (Pilate) knew that they had handed Him over because of envy.

Mark 15:10

For he knew that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy.

Ways to break free from Envy

1) Learn contentment. You won’t be envious of someone else when you are happy with your lot in life .

Philippians 4:11-13

Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2) Be grateful to God with what you have. It is hard to be envious when you are grateful with the things you have whether a little or a lot.

Romans 1:21

because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Unthankfulness leads to a darken heart (a evil way of thinking)

3) Don't focus on what God has for others but what God has for self.

John 21:20-23

Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?" Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, "But Lord, what about this man?" Jesus said to him, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." Then this saying went out among the brethren that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you?"

4) Understand that when the wicked prosper is only for this life temporary but not in the next which is forever.

Luke 16:25

But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.

Sometimes we might see evil people prosper and Envy can & may come as a result, this happened to Asaph. But he got over it when he went to the temple of the Lord and saw their property is only in this life. But not in the one to come. And to have God as your own possession is better than any other possession anyone can attain in this life.

Psalms 73:1-25

Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment. Their eyes bulge with abundance; They have more than heart could wish.

They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily.

They set their mouth against the heavens, And their tongue walks through the earth.

Therefore his people return here, And waters of a full cup are drained by them.

And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"

Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches.

Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence.

For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning.

If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me—

Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end.

Surely You set them in slippery places; You cast them down to destruction.

Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. As a dream when one awakes, So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image. Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. Whom have I in heaven but You? And there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.